



Rin Koudou presents

騎士オルレアの姫

神月凛

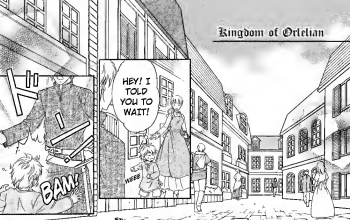
The Knight Princess of Orlelian

Rin Koudaky presents



Kingdom of Ortelian





**I, AIRA
WELBURN!**

AIRA
...

WELBURN
...

WHA...?
!!

GLANC!

THUNK
!!

SWISH

IF YOU
MUST
CONTINUE,
I SHALL BE
YOUR
OPPONENT!

DRAWING A
SWORD AT A
CHILD ISN'T
SOMETHING
A KNIGHT
DOES!

STEE...

騎士姫

オルレリアンの

The Knight Princess
of Orlelian





WE PRAISE
YOU FOR YOUR
RECENT MERI-
TORIOUS DEED
AMIDST THE
CASTLE TOWN
AND...

BESTOW
UPON YOU
YOUR NEXT
ORDER OF
RHTY...

**HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS
PRINCE
RUDEYLYCE'S
KNIGHT.**

YOUR
FATHER IS
CALLING
FOR YOU!
IT'S
URGENT...
PLEASE
HURRY!!



AT ANY RATE, I SHOULD BE GLAD THAT MY SKILLS HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED!

AS A KNIGHT OF THE WELBURN FAMILY, IT'S A GREAT HONOR TO SERVE SOMEONE LIKE HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE RUDEYLICE!

MALITI...

THERE'S A RUMOR HE'S A PLAYBOY AND... I'M WORRIED... DESPITE YOUR HANDLINESS AND LACK OF SEX APPEAL...

SPEAKING OF HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE RUDEYLICE,



FATHER, PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!

IF I WEREN'T SICK, YOU COULD'VE KNOWN THE JOYS OF LIFE AS A WOMAN...



WE WON'T
KNOW IF HIS
HIGHNESS
IS AS THE
RUMORS SAY
UNTIL I GO
AND SEE HIM,
ANYWAY.



MOST OF
ALL, IF I CAN
BE OF ANY
USE AT ALL
TO THIS
FAMILY,

**THAT'S
WHAT
BRINGS
ME JOY!**

THIS IS

HIS
HIGHNESS,
PRINCE
RUDEYLICE'S
RESIDENCE,
"CROWN
PRINCE."

IT'S NOTHING
LIKE THE
MAIN PALACE,
BUT IT'S
STILL GRAND
AFTER ALL.

LADY
AIRA,
THIS
WAY,
PLEASE!

AH...
YES!





PLEASE
GET A
HOLD OF
YOUR-
SELF.

I'M
SORRY,
SIR
CEVILL.

THAT PLACE IS
MY JOB...



HIS HIGHNESS'
LIFE IS AT
STAKE.

GUARD
HIM
WELL.



IT'S YOUR
DUTY TO STAY
BY HIS
HIGHNESS
AND PROTECT
HIM, DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

HIS
HIGHNESS
PRINCE
RUDEYLICE'S
CONFIDANT,
SIR CEVILL...

IS A BIT
STRICT.

...

I'VE GOT TO
GET MY ACT
TOGETHER!

YES,
SIR!

EXCUSE
ME.

REPORTING...

REPORTING...

REPORTING...

BA-DUM...

NOISE...

I WONDER
WHAT
KIND OF
...

HIS
HIGHNESS,
PRINCE
RUDEYLICE
...



AIRA
WELBURN?

PRINCE

...

BA-DUMP



BY ORDER,
YOUR
HIGHNESS,
PRINCE
...

NO NEED
FOR INTRO-
DUCTIONS,
SO STAND
AND LET ME
SEE YOUR
FACE.

HE
SEEMS
KIND.

I'M GLAD
YOU CAME.
FROM TODAY
ONWARD,
I'LL BE IN
YOUR CARE,
ATRA.

YES,
SIR.

I DON'T
LIKE FOR-
MALITIES.

UNLIKE
THE
RUMORS.

REACH...



SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
EYES.



WOW...

THIS
IS THE
FIRST
TIME A
MAN'S
TOUCHED
ME THIS
WAY.



EH...?



FWISH

CALL
ME
RUDY.



HUH...?

WHA...



WH...
WHAT ARE
YOU
DOING!?



AH.

WAS IT
YOUR
FIRST?



IN THE ONLY ONE
A JESSE!

I'LL JUST
BEAR
WITH IT!

THAT'S IT.

BECAUSE IT
WAS MY OWN
DESCISION TO
COME THIS
FAR!



HE'S THE
WORST,
JUST LIKE
THE RUMORS
SAY! BUT...

WHAT
WAS WITH
THAT
SMILE!





I WAS SO
HAPPY I
COULDN'T
CONTROL
MYSELF.
SHE'S A
FEISTY ONE,
ISN'T SHE?

MEETING FOR
THE FIRST TIME
AND DOING
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT, IT'S
A GIVEN THAT
YOU WOULD GET
SLAPPED.



IF SHE
HATES YOU
AND YOU'RE
IN A PINCH,
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO IF
SHE ABAND-
ONS YOU?

I'LL DO
WITHOUT THE
FEISTINESS
BUT,



AIRA'S THAT
KIND OF
WOMAN, IS
SHE ———?

SHALL
WE WAIT
AND SEE?



AIRA...



I'M ON
GUARD.
(FOR A
LOT OF
THINGS...)

YOU DON'T
NEED TO
WALK THAT
FAR AWAY
FROM ME.

EVEN SO...
I DON'T REALLY
GET WHY HE'S
OBSERVING
THE TOWN
INCOGNITO...

FOR SOME-
ONE WHOSE
LIFE IS IN
DANGER,
ISN'T HE A
LITTLE TOO
DEFENSE-
LESS?



AT ANY RATE...
IS THAT ALL YOU
HAVE TO WEAR?
AFTER I TOLD YOU
THAT YOU COULD
WEAR NORMAL
CLOTHES INSTEAD
OF YOUR KNIGHT
UNIFORM...
DON'T YOU HAVE
SOMETHING
MORE... OH...

THIS IS
WHAT I
NORMALLY
WEAR, IS
THERE A
PROBLEM?

NO...





WHAT PART OF
THIS IS
"OBSERVING"?

SIS!

SCUTTLE



NO! I'M
FINE.

AIRA,
YOU TRY IT
TOO.

GET ME
THE
STUFFED
ANIMAL.
♥



I CAN'T BE
DOING
THIS! ME...
TOGETHER
WITH...



YAY!

BAM

ポス
BAM



GOOD
JOB.

RUDY! I
WANT
THAT ONE,
TOO!

AL-
RIGHT.

EX-DUMP...

EVEN THOUGH
HE'S A PRINCE,
HE'S SO,
FRIENDLY
WITH THE
TOWNSPEOPLE
AND HE
REALLY —

SORRY!

GIVE ME A BREAK!

PRINCE
RUDY...





LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
HAVING
FUN.



WHAT KIND
OF PERSON
IS PRINCE
RUDY,
REALLY-?



HE'S
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM
BEFORE.

SO HE
CAN SMILE
THIS WAY,
TOO...





**YOUR
HIGHNESS,
BRACE
YOURSELF!**



BUT —



**WHAT I
UNDERSTAND
ABOUT PRINCE
RUDY IS THAT...**

**PRINCE
RUDY,
STAND
BACK!**



HIS LIFE
IS AT STAKE
BECAUSE
HE'S THE
PRINCE OF
ORLEIAN.

NO MATTER
WHAT KIND OF
PERSON
PRINCE RUDY
IS, WILL STAY
BY HIS SIDE
AND PROTECT
HIM!
BECAUSE
I'M HIS
KNIGHT!

DAMN... I...
RETREAT!

I,

I WON'T LET
YOU ESCAPE!

SCUFF...

**WHAT ARE
YOU
THINKING!?**

**IT'S A
MISTAKE TO
BE STROLL-
ING AROUND
TOWN IN-
COGNITO
WHEN YOUR
LIFE IS AT
STAKE!**

**NOT BAD
IF I DO
SAY SO
MYSELF.**

**IT'S AN
HONOR TO
RECEIVE
YOUR
PRAISE—
BUT...**

**EVEN IF YOU
SAY YOU'RE
HERE ON
"OBSERVA-
TION," YOU'RE
JUST MESSING
AROUND.
IF YOU HAVE
ANY DECENCY
AS A PRINCE,
PLEASE STOP
THIS AT ONCE!**

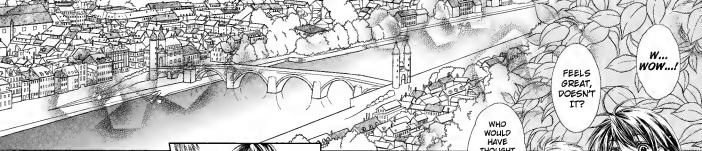
I DONT LIKE
BEING
SCOLDED,
BUT IF
IT'S
YOU, I
DONT
MIND.

HE'S HAPPY
HE GOT
SCOLDED?

COME NOW,
LET'S TAKE
A BREAK.

WHAT?

WHAT IS HE
THINKING...?



I RARELY
DO THIS,
FORGIVE
ME.

SO HE
ISN'T JUST
WALKING
AROUND
HAVING
FUN... BUT...

I WANT
TO GO ON
PROTECT-
ING THIS
BEAUTIFUL
COUNTRY.

IF THAT'S
SO, PLEASE
VALUE
YOUR LIFE
MORE.

THE SMILES
OF THE
TOWNSPEOPLE
GIVE ME
STRENGTH
SO —



FEELS
GREAT,
DOESN'T
IT?

W...
WOW...!

WHO
WOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT
THAT A
PLACE LIKE
THIS
EXISTED!

SOMETIMES
I COME
HERE AFTER
OBSERVING
THE TOWN,

AND THINK
ABOUT
ORLEIAN'S
FUTURE.



TO
PROTECT
THOSE
THAT ARE
IMPOR-
TANT, TO
MAKE
THEM
HAPPY,

IS
NOTHING.

TO A
CERTAIN
EXTENT,
WHITTLING
AWAY MY
LIFE,



YOU'RE
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
RUMORS
I'VE HEARD.

RU-
MORET

IS
THAT
SO?

PRINCE
RUDY,
YOU'RE
MORE EAR-
NEST THAN
I THOUGHT.

THE FEELING
OF WANTING
TO PROTECT
SOMETHING
— EVEN I
UNDER-
STAND IT.

"A PLAYER."

I WAS ABLE
TO GET SOME
PEACE OF
MIND, AND
FULLY CARRY
OUT MY DUTY.



HE'S
ACTUALLY A
PRINCE WHO
THINKS OF
HIS COUNTRY
AND HIS
PEOPLE.

I HELD
PREJUDICE
AGAINST
HIM FOR
HAVING THE
WORST
FIRST IM-
PRESSION
EVER BUT,

IF I COULD
BETTER
UNDER-
STAND
PRINCE
RUDY'S
FEELINGS...

UM...SIR
CEVILL...





WHO IS
TARGETING
PRINCE RUDY'S
LIFE?



HER ROYAL
HIGHNESS,
QUEEN
KARINA
THE 2ND.

FWIP...



**HIS OWN
FAMILY!?**

SHE'S PLANNING
TO HAVE HER
OWN CHILD.
PRINCE FIDIUS
SUCCEEDED THE
THRONE.



— HIS
HIGHNESS
TREASURES
HIS YOUNGER
HALF BROTHER,
PRINCE
FIDIUS.

HE DOESN'T
WANT PRINCE
FIDIUS, WHO
KNOWS NOTH-
ING OF HIS
MOTHER'S ACTS,
TO LOSE HER.



WHY
DOESN'T
HE DEFEND
HIMSELF?

PRINCE
RUDY...

IT'S BECAUSE
HIS HIGHNESS
UNDERSTANDS
THE PAIN OF
LOSING ONE'S
OWN MOTHER.

THERE'S NO
TELLING
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN WHEN
THEY MEET.
PLEASE BE
CAREFUL.

YES,
SIR!

IN TWO
MONTHS A
BANQUET
CELEBRATING
PRINCE
FIDIUS'
BIRTHDAY
WILL BE
HELD.

PRINCE RUDY'S
KINDNESS
TOWARDS HIS
YOUNGER
BROTHER...



IS PUTTING
HIM IN
DANGER.

BUT I'LL
PROTECT
PRINCE
RUDY!

WOW...!

Step



SO THIS
IS WHAT A
PALACE
BANQUET
IS LIKE!

ON BEHALF
OF MY
BROTHER, I
THANK YOU
FOR COMING
TODAY.

S...SO
HANDSOME...
SO THIS IS
WHAT A REAL
"PRINCE" IS
LIKE!!

EVERYONE.

BUT...
SPEAKING
OF BEING
RADIANT...

THE
WOMEN
ARE...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

THEY'RE SO
RADIANT.

I'M
ALWAYS
BY HIS
SIDE,

AND
ALTHOUGH
WE SEEM
CLOSE...



THE
PRINCE I
PROTECT.

HE'S FROM A
DIFFERENT
CLASS.



ANNOUNCING
THE ARRIVAL
OF PRINCE
FIDUS AND
HER ROYAL
HIGHNESS,
QUEEN
KARINA THE
2ND!

I NEED TO
FOCUS!



THE ONE
TARGETING
PRINCE
RUDY'S
LIFE...



FIDELIS.



HAPPY 13TH
BIRTHDAY,

I'M GLAD
WE COULD
CELEBRATE
TOGETHER.

BROTHER!

CHATTER...

AND HERE
EVERYONE
THOUGHT THE
TWO WERE ON
BAD TERMS.

THAT SMILE
SHOWS
THEIR TRUE
FEELINGS.



CHEERS!

ON THIS
BRILLIANT
OCCASION.

LET US
COMMEMORATE
PRINCE FIDIUS'
TRANSITION
INTO ADULT-
HOOD.



SMILING
WHILE
KNOWING
EVERYTHING.



SMILING
WITHOUT
KNOWING
ANYTHING.

TWO COMPLETE
OPPOSITES...



PRINCE
RUDY,
ISN'T IT
PAINFUL?



YES,
THANK
YOU.

YOUR ROYAL
HIGHNESS,
CONGRATU-
LATIONS
ON THIS
GLORIOUS
DAY.

QUEEN
KARINA...



HOW
COULD SHE
USE HER
SON'S
CUTENESS
TO TARGET
PRINCE
RUDY?



THAT'S
WHERE THE
"PLAYER"
RUMOR
CAME
FROM?



OTHER, JAMMER, FANTASY,
SQUADERS, ETC.



WE'LL BE
QUITE BUSY
AFTER THE
BANQUET
WITH VARIOUS
ENGAGEMENTS.





I'M ON
GUARD DUTY.
I DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR
FRIVOLOUS
THINGS!



IF YOU
WOULD
JUST
RETURN MY
SMILE,
IT WOULD
CHEER ME
UP.



YOU'RE
MEAN,
AIRA.



N..NO! I'M
A KNIGHT,
SO THIS
IS FINE!



WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
CHANGE
INTO A
DRESS?



NOT THE
"KNIGHT"
AIRA, BUT
WHAT ABOUT
THE "LADY"
AIRA?



YOU'RE
NO FUN!



AS I WAS
SAYING —



NO, HE
SQUATTED.





SUCH AN
ELEGANT
LADY.

WFT...

IT'S MY
PLEASURE
TO WELCOME
YOU TO MY
YOUNGER
BROTHER'S
BANQUET.

TENDERLY
GAZING
INTO HIS
EYES AND
WHISPERING
TO HIM
SOFTLY,

PRINCESS
CECELIA
SEEMS
CHARMING.

SO
THIS
IS
HOW

A DRESS...?
EVEN IF I DIDN'T
NEED TO DRAW MY
SWORD, BEING
DRESSED
LADYLIKE WASN'T
NECESSARY AND...



I CAN'T
IMAGINE
MYSELF IN
A DRESS.



....
ME...ALL
LADYLIKE...

THE
BANQUET...
IT WAS
GLAMOROUS
AND BEAU-
TIFUL...

IT WAS
LIKE A
FAIRY
TALE.

THANK
GOODNESS
IT ENDED
WITHOUT A
HITCH.



EVEN SO,



A WOMAN
FALLS IN
"LOVE..."



WAAA...

SOME-
THING
LIKE
THIS
MAYBE?



PRINCE
RUBY?

AIRA,
IT'S ME.



A-AH,
YES?

AAAAH!!

ト!!
ア!
THUD!

DID YOU
NEED
SOME-
THING...?



THINK OF
THIS AS
YOUR OWN.

THIS...



WHAT'S
WRONG!?
I'M
COMING
IN.



P...
PLEASE
DON'T
MIND
ME...

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



I'M
STILL
IN MY
UNDER-
WEAR!!



BU...BUT...
FOR ME...

A DRESS!



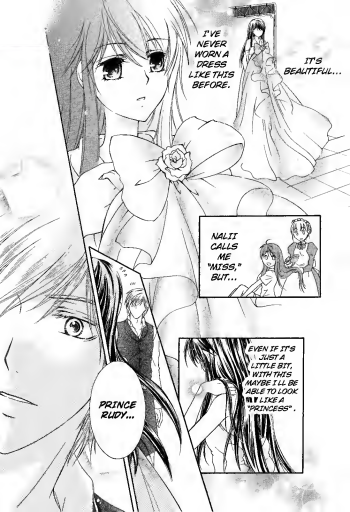
IT'S...
LIKE THE
DRESSES
AT THE
BANQUET...

CHANGE
INTO
THIS.

YOUR
"DUTIES"
FOR TODAY
ARE AL-
READY
DONE.

...YES,
SIR...

CLENCH...



I'VE
NEVER
WORN A
DRESS
LIKE THIS
BEFORE.

IT'S
BEAUTIFUL...

NALII
CALLS
ME
"MISS,"
BUT...

PRINCE
RUDY...

EVEN IF IT'S
JUST A
LITTLE BIT,
WITH THIS
MAYBE I'LL BE
ABLE TO LOOK
MY LIKE A
"PRINCESS".



H...HOW DO
I LOOK?

IT LOOKS
GREAT ON
YOU.

HERE,
FOR THE
FINISHING
TOUCH.

STORY
SUGGESTION



THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME...A
MAN HAS EVER
SAID ANY-
THING LIKE
THIS TO ME...

YOU LOOK
BEAUTIFUL.

I MADE THE
RIGHT DECISION
NOT LETTING
YOU WEAR A
DRESS AT THE
BANQUET. SUCH
A LOVELY
FIGURE —

P...
PRINCE
RU...

LEFT



IF THIS IS
A DREAM...
HONESTLY...

IT MAKES
YOU EVEN
MORE
BEAUTIFUL.

WHEN YOU
SMILE,

JUST THE
THOUGHT OF
IT MAKES ME
JEALOUS.

FOR OTHER
MEN TO
STARE AT
YOU.

blush
I FEEL
LIGHTHEADED.
...IS THIS A
DREAM?

WEARING THIS
BEAUTIFUL DRESS
AND HAVING
SWEET THINGS
WHISPERED INTO
MY EAR, BY A
PRINCE WHO'S
ADMIRER BY
WOMEN ALL OVER
THE COUNTRY.

SMILE,
AIRA.

AIRA.

WHAT IS THIS
FEELING?

THIS...
FEELING OF
HAPPINESS...

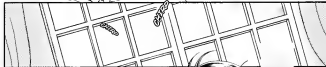
SO WARM.
I WANT TO
BE WRAPPED
IN THIS
FEELING
FOREVER.

WHAT A
STRANGE
FEELING...

I WAS
WAITING AN
ETERNITY
FOR THAT
SMILE.

FINALLY,
YOU SMILED
FOR ME!





THIS ISN'T
THE TIME TO
BE DREAM-
ING! I NEED
TO GET
READY! IT'S
TIME TO GET
FOR WORK!

IT'S BECAUSE
I SAW
SO MANY
GLAMOROUS
THINGS AT
THE BANQUET
YESTERDAY!

HMM... TOO
READY UNPLEASANT &
SHOCKING RESPONSE!

A...D...
DREAM...!?





NO MATTER
HOW BEAUTIFUL
OF A DRESS
I WEAR,
I CAN NEVER
MATCH UP TO
SOMEONE
LIKE HER.

THAT ELEGANT
LADY.

YESTERDAY—WHETHER
IT WAS A DREAM
OR REALITY,

WHAT I MUST DO
HASN'T CHANGED.



SHE LIVES IN A
DIFFERENT WORLD
THAN I DO...

AIRA.



AH, YES
THAT
SHOULD
BE FINE.

HOW DOES
HAVING
YOUR DATE
NEXT WEEK
WITH
PRINCESS
CECELIA
SOUND?

PRINCESS
CECELIA...

YESTERDAY
NIGHT
WAS —



Y-
YES!

RUDY'S
KNIGHT!

BUT
REALLY,

I'M

LOVELY. PLEASE
ALLOW ME TO
INDULGE IN THAT
ENCHANTING
VISION ONCE
MORE.

GA-PURP...

I LIKE
BEING
THIS WAY
BETTER!



LOOK!

IT'S PRINCE
RUDYCE AND
PRINCESS
CECELIA.
WHAT A LOVELY
SIGHT, THEY
LOOK FANTASTIC
TOGETHER!



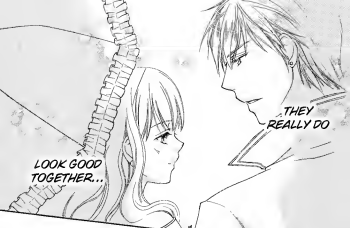
WELL WE
CAN'T REFUSE
HER, SHE'S A
PRINCESS OF
A MARQUIS
FAMILY.



PRINCESS
CECELIA HAS
BEEN
VISITING
QUITE OFTEN
LATELY...

*PRINCE RUDY'S SO
KIND TO PRINCESS
CECELIA...*





THEY
REALLY DO

LOOK GOOD
TOGETHER...



WHERE
IS HIS
HIGH-
NESS?

PRINCESS
CECELIA...

MISS
AIRA!

HE'S WORK-
ING AT THE
MOMENT.



CECELIA

THEN FOR
THE TIME
BEING,
WOULD YOU
ACCOMPANY
ME FOR
SOME TEA?



KIND AND
LADYLIKE,
THE
COMPLETE
OPPOSITE
OF SOME-
ONE WITH
A SWORD,
LIKE ME.

MEN ARE
INTERESTED IN
WOMEN LIKE
PRINCESS CECELIA,
AREN'T THEY...?

N...NO IT'S
NOTHING LIKE
THAT! I'M
JUST A
KNIGHT WHO
PROTECTS
PRINCE
RUDBYLICE.

WITH
SOMEONE SO
SWEET BY HIS
SIDE, PRINCE
RUDBYLICE
CAN'T LEAVE
YOU ALONE,
CAN HE?

OH MY!
HOW NOBLE.





SHALL DEVOTE
MYSELF TO
BECOMING A
GREAT QUEEN
FOR PRINCE
RUDYLIC.

PRINCE
RUDY AND
PRINCESS
CECELIA
ARE...

QUEEN!?



IT MAY BE
THAT FROM
NOW ON-
WARDS THAT I
WILL BE IN
YOUR CARE
AS WELL.

PLEASE
TREAT
ME
KINDLY.

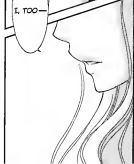


HAVING A
KNIGHT
BY YOUR
SIDE IS A
RELIEF
AFTER
ALL.

I DEVOTE
MYSELF
TO MY
DUTY.

I'M SO
STUPID...
A KNIGHT
LIKE ME
HAS NO
NEED TO BE
FEMININE.

I, TOO—





SORRY TO
KEEP YOU
WAITING,
PRINCESS
CECELIA.

GETTING
MARRIED...!?

...YES,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS...



...
STING...



AIRA?



THANK
YOU AIRA,
YOU MAY
LEAVE
NOW.



NO...
NOTH-
ING...

WHAT'S
WRONG?

EXCUSE
ME.

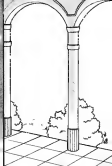


IT'S A
PLEASURE
TO SEE
YOU AGAIN,
PRINCE
RUBEYLICE.

THE
PLEA-
SURE IS
MINE.

THE TWO OF
THEM GETTING
MARRIED...HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH SOMEONE
LIKE ME.

WHAT IS
THIS
STRANGE
FEELING?



PRINCESS
CECELIA IS SO
LOVELY, AND
SHE SUITS
PRINCE RUDY
WELL.

EVEN THOUGH
IT'S MY DUTY TO
GIVE THEM MY ...
BLESSING,

WHY CAN'T I TRULY
BE HAPPY FOR
THEM...?





WHAT'S WRONG
AIRA, YOU
LOOK
DOWN.

NO...IT'S
NOTHING...

WE'RE NOT OB-
SERVING THE
TOWN TODAY,
SO LET'S RELAX
A LITTLE AND
ENJOY OUR-
SELVES.

WELL, HE
HAS BEEN
FAIRLY
BUSY
LATELY.



MAYBE WEARING
SOMETHING
MORE LADYLIKE
WOULD HAVE
PLEASED PRINCE
RUDY...

IF WE'RE
GOING TO
GO OUT
OF OUR
WAY INTO
TOWN,





**WHAT AM I
THINKING!?**

AIRA!?

DASH

**I DON'T HAVE
A NEED FOR
THINGS LIKE
THAT!**

**AIRA,
WAIT!!**

GRAB



FACE
THIS
WAY.

WHA...
WHAT
ARE...

HOLD
STILL—
LOOK,

NOT SO
BAD.

HUH
...?



IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

UM...A MIRROR...

LOOK THIS WAY, MY DEAR.



CAN YOU
SEE IT
CLEARLY?

WHAT DO
YOU
THINK?



IT GOES WELL
WITH YOUR
BEAUTIFUL
BLACK HAIR.

BA-DUMP...

TH...THAN
K... —

AIRA?

IF I DON'T SAY
SOMETHING...

BUT...

I NEED TO
EXPRESS MY
GRATITUDE...

I CAN'T SAY A
WORD...?

PRINCE
RUDY
WILL
WORRI...

WHAT IS
THIS...MY
CHEST FEELS
TIGHT...

HUH...?

BA-DUMP...

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP

AIRAI?
WHAT'S
WRONG? ARE
YOU NOT
FEELING
WELL...?

PRINCE
RUDY...
THIS CAN'T
BE...NO...
WHY — ?

...HUH...?

BA-DUMP

I...

DO I...
LOVE...

PRINCE
RUDY...!!?

THAT'S
RIGHT.

EVEN JUST
NOW.

PRINCE
RUDY'S
SMILING
FACE.

THE NIGHT I
HAD THAT
DREAM.

THE FIRST
TIME WE
WENT INTO
TOWN.

I LIKE...
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
HIM....

BUT
PRINCE
RUDY IS
GOING TO
MARRY
PRINCESS
CECELIA.

I'M SERVING
AS PRINCE
RUDY'S
KNIGHT.

I SHOULDN'T
BE FEELING
THIS BUT...

I'M SO
HAPPY

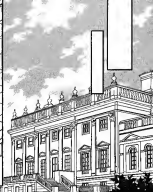
IN HIS
WARM
EMBRACE

I CAN'T FALL
IN LOVE
WITH HIM!!

BUT MY
HEART...
IS...
CRYING...



AIRA...

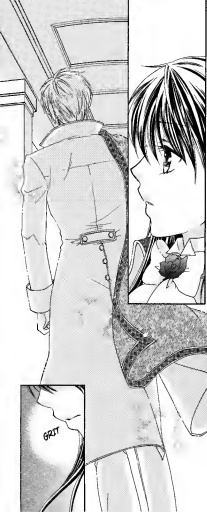


THAT...
ABOUT THE
OTHER
DAY...
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



I'M SORRY
FOR
WORRYING
YOU.

YES
SIR, I'M
FINE.



I WAS
FEELING
UNDER THE
WEATHER
THAT DAY,
AFTER ALL.

I SEE...
IF THAT'S
SO, THEN
ALRIGHT.



SHALL
WE GO?

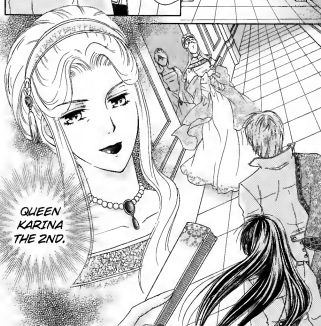
YES,
SIR.



GROT



WELL, WELL,
IF IT ISN'T
PRINCE
RUDEBYLIC.



**QUEEN
KARINA
THE 2ND.**



I'M FINE,
THANK
YOU ———
BY THE
WAY...



GOOD
AFTERNOON
MOTHER, I
HOPE YOU
ARE WELL.

*A DAME IS A FEMALE KNIGHT.



IS THAT
YOUNG
"DAME" YOUR
NEW LOVE
INTEREST?



TRYING HARD
TO WIN PRINCE
RUDY'S HEART
WITH SUCH A
CRUDE HAIR
CLIP, AREN'T
YOU



DO YOU ENJOY
AMUSING YOUR-
SELF WITH SUCH
AN UNCOUTH
RUFFIAN, PRINCE
RUDYLIC?



MOTHER.

SNEER
SNEER

HOW DISRESPECTFUL!

I'M...

NOT SEEN
AS A
KNIGHT!?

WAS I
JUST
BEING
FOOLISH

PLEASE
STOP
INSULTING
MY KNIGHT.

PAY NO
ATTENTION TO
HER, ATRA.
YOU ARE A
WONDERFUL
KNIGHT
AND —

CALLING
MYSELF A
"KNIGHT"?

THIS IS
UNACCEPTABLE!

SMACK!

I'M THE
ONE WHO
SHOULD BE
BLAMED
BECAUSE...

PRINCE
RUDY
ISN'T THE
ONE AT
FAULT.

NO!

!
AH...NO..
I'M...
SORR...

I'M A
WOMAN!

I'M
GOING
TO...

IF THAT'S
STOPPING
ME FROM
BEING A
KNIGHT,



CUT OFF
THESE
FEELINGS!!

WAAAAA



WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE...

WOMEN
WITH SHORT
HAIR ARE
EITHER
NUNS OR
CRIMINALS.

WITH THIS,
NO ONE WILL
THINK OF ME AS
YOUR LOVER!

AIRA...



— I'M
SORRY.

WHAT A
STUPID
THING
TO DO...





**I DON'T
NEED LOVE,**

**BECAUSE
I'M**

A KNIGHT.



THIS
DOESN'T



SUIT ME
ANY MORE,
DOES IT?





RUDY...





RUDY...

YOU MUST
CARRY ON
LIVING...



I'M——
SORRY...





WHAT
ABOUT LADY
AIRA...?



I WON'T
BE NEED-
ING AN
ESCORT.

TOMORROW
I'LL BE
GOING TO
PRINCESS
CECELIA'S
MANOR,
HOWEVER...

DIS...
MISSED...?

WHAT'S...
HAPPENING?

YOU'VE
BEEN RE-
LIEVED OF
YOUR
DUTIES.

THIS CON-
VERSATION
IS OVER,
PLEASE
LEAVE.





THIS IS
YOUR JUST
REWARD,
TAKE IT.

...SIR
CEVILL...



WHY...HAVE
I BEEN
DISMISSED
SO SUD-
DENLY...?

SHAME...



PRINCE
RUDY'S...MOTHER?

WITH YOUR
CURRENT
HAIRSTYLE,
YOU REMIND
HIS HIGH-
NESS OF HIS
MOTHER.

THERE'S
EVEN A
RESEMBLANCE
IN THE
WAY YOUR
BEAUTIFUL
HAIR WAS
CRABLY CUT.



I CAN'T...
BELIEVE
THIS...

LADY
AIRA!



A large, dark boot is shown stepping down onto a small, white, fluffy dog. The dog is lying on its back, and the boot is positioned directly over its head. The scene is depicted with dynamic lines suggesting impact and movement.

WHILE PRO-
TECTING HIS
HIGHNESS, HIS
MOTHER WAS
KILLED BY AN
ASSASSIN'S
DAGGER...

THUD





YOUR
HIGH-
NESS,

WELCOME,
THANK YOU
FOR COMING!

I'M HONORED
THAT YOU AC-
CEPTED MY
INVITATION.



SHE'S
BEEN DIS-
MISSED.

OH MY!



THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR KIND
INVITATION.

OH? AIRA
ISN'T AC-
COMPANYING
YOU?



OH
DEAR.

HOW
UNFORTUNATE.
AND HERE I
THOUGHT I
COULD BECOME
GOOD FRIENDS
WITH MISS
AIRA.

HOW RUDE
OF ME, BUT

PLEASE
FORGET
ABOUT HER.



I...



**I'M
HOME.**







I HURT HIM...

I WANT THE PERSON
I TREASURE...

WHOOSH

CUT MY HAIR
RIGHT BEFORE
HIS EYES,
FORCING HIM
TO REMEMBER
PAINFUL
MEMORIES.

TO LIVE ON
SMILING...

MISS...

SOMEONE
LIKE ME CAN'T
STAY BY HIS
SIDE AND
PROTECT HIM.

I SHOULDN'T
HAVE FALLEN
IN LOVE
WITH HIM.
I HATE THIS
FEELING OF
HELPLESS-
NESS...



WHAT?

WHAT ARE
YOU RUN-
NING AWAY
FROM?



PROTECTING
SOMEONE OUT
OF "LOVE" IS
TEN TIMES
BETTER THAN
PROTECTING
SOMEONE OUT OF
"OBLIGATION."

AND REGARD-
LESS OF YOUR
CLASS, YOU
ARE FREE TO
CHOOSE WHO
YOU FALL IN
LOVE WITH.

BLAMING
EVERYTHING
ON LOVE IS
RIDICULOUS!



RUNNING
AWAY...

IT'S BEEN TWO
DAYS SINCE
YOU'VE COME
HOME AND THIS
IS ALL YOU'VE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT?

LIKE...ME...?

IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU.



I...

ACTED WITHOUT
THINKING ABOUT THE
CONSEQUENCES

AND AS A
RESULT

I WAS
DISMISSED...

HOWEVER,

THIS FEELING OF
WANTING TO
"PROTECT SOMEONE"
HASN'T CHANGED BUT,

THE PRESENT ME...





I...
SEE...

EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT
WON'T GO ANYWHERE, I
CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT
IT, BUT I'M TOO MUCH OF A
COWARD TO DO ANYTHING.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?

IF THAT'S SO,

I NEED TO GET
MOVING.

THIS
ISN'T
LIKE ME,
IS IT...

WHOOSH



THOSE
CLOTHES
LOOK WON-
DERFUL ON
YOU, AFTER
ALL.

AND PROTECT
PRINCE RUDY
ONCE MORE!

STAY
BY HIS
SIDE

I'M NOT
GOING TO
RUN AWAY...

FROM MY
FEELINGS
ANYMORE!

NALII.

GET ME MY
KNIGHT
UNIFORM.

I WANT
TO

HERE, WEAR
THIS TOO—





WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF THIS
MANOR, YOUR
HIGHNESS?



EVEN WITHIN
ORLELIAN,
THIS AREA IS
WELL-KNOWN
FOR ITS
PRODUCTION
OF WINE.

IT CER-
TAINLY
LIVES UP
TO ITS
REPUTATION.



PROFESSOR

THAT'S WHY
I INVITED
YOU HERE.





I'D LIKE TO
SPEAK WITH
HIS HIGH-
NESS.



HIS HIGH-
NESS IS CUR-
RENTLY IN THE
MIDDLE OF A
CONVERSA-
TION WITH A
GUEST, BUT
YOU ARE
WELCOME TO
TELL ME IN
HIS PLACE, IF
IT'S ALRIGHT
WITH YOU.

I'M HERE TO
SEE HIS
HIGHNESS,
PRINCE
RUDEYLICE.



IT'S AS
YOU HAVE
HEARD —
HOWEVER,

I HEARD
FROM HIS
HIGHNESS
THAT...
YOU WERE
DISMISSED
AS HIS
KNIGHT.

CLENCH...



BUT HE'LL BE
FINE, AS I
HAVE MANY
GUARDS ON
DUTY.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
YOU MUST
BE WORRIED
ABOUT HIS
HIGHNESS.

EVEN SO...
UP UNTIL NOW,
HIS HIGHNESS'
LIFE HAS BEEN
TARGETED
REPEATEDLY...

I WANT TO
STAY BY
HIS SIDE
AND PRO-
TECT HIS
HIGHNESS!



MISS
AIRA...

PLEASE!
LET ME
SPEAK
WITH HIS
HIGHNESS.



YOU
SHOULD'VE
BEEN OBE-
DIENT AND AC-
CEPTED YOUR
DISMISSAL.



LOVE HIS
HIGHNESS,
DON'T YOU?



HANGING ON
SO ———
DESPER-
ATELY...



WHAT...?

YOU ———

**SUCH A
STUPID
GIRL.**

!!

CRASH

IT'S JUST
AS YOU SAID,
THERE IS
SOMEONE
HERE TARGET-
ING HIS
HIGHNESS'
LIFE...

P...
PRINCESS
CECILIA...

WHAT!

DO AS YOU
WISH WITH
THIS GIRL.

MISS
AIRA,

WFT™

SNACKER™

I MYSELF
AM ONE
OF THOSE
PEOPLE.

I'LL BE SURE
TO MAKE IT
SEEM AS IF
YOU NEVER
CAME HERE.

I THOUGHT
BY GETTING
CLOSE TO YOU
I WOULD HAVE
SOME LEeway,
BUT GOOD
RIDDANCE.

GOODBYE.



**PRINCE
RUDY!!!**



**PRINCE RUDY IS
IN DANGER...!**



IF I
SAID YOU
WOULD
YOU BE
HAPPY?



YOUR HIGH-
NESS, WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING
ABOUT?



OH MY!

I GIVE
MYSELF
TO YOU.

PUSH...

YOUR
HIGHNESS...
TONIGHT —

HOW
BOLD OF
YOU...



OH NO.

A SERVANT
MUST HAVE
DROPPED
THAT SO I
PICKED IT
UP FOR HER.

IS SOME-
THING...



RATHER
THAN
THAT...



THIS IS
AIRA'S
HAIRCLIP.

DID AIRA
COME
HERE?



I GAVE
THIS TO
AIRA.

Y...YOU CAN
BUY SOME-
THING AS
CHEAP AS
THAT...
ANYWHERE...



WHAT'S
WRONG?
CECELIA?



WHY WON'T
YOU TELL
ME?

CRACK...



SHE
WENT
HOME...

I CAN'T
IMAGINE
HER LEAVING
QUIETLY
WITHOUT A
FIGHT.

EEP..

**ANSWER
ME NOW,
WHERE IS
AIRA?**

AH ———

**CECELIA
KRISTER,
WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
AIRA?**



AH...HOW
FRIGHTENING...!

GATLS...

A YOUNG WOMAN
OF THE KRISTER
FAMILY AND
DISTANT RELA-
TIVE OF QUEEN
KARINA.

I... DIDN'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THAT
GIRL SO... I
ENTRUSTED
HER TO THE
GUARDS!



Q...
QUEEN
KARINA
SAID...

THAT DAGGER
UNDER YOUR
DRESS, IS
THAT FOR ME?



THAT IF I
KILLED YOU,
SHE WOULD
FORMALLY
ADOPT ME
AS HER
DAUGHTER...

I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE A
WASTE, SO I
DECIDED TO
MAKE YOU
MINE FIRST
BEFORE I
KILLED YOU,
BUT TO HELL
WITH IT!

**THE HOTHEADED
PRINCE
GETTING ALL
WORKED UP
OVER A
COMMONER,
LIKE AN IDIOT!**



I SHOULD
HAVE
KILLED
YOU WHEN
I HAD THE
CHANCE!

OH, COME
ON.

WHY...



RATHER THAN
AN ELEGANT
PRINCESS WHO
PUTS ON AIRS, A
COMMONER WILL
ALWAYS BE MORE
CHARMING.



YES,
SIR!

CEVILL!

TAKE
CARE OF
THE REST
FOR ME.

CER-
TAIN-
LY!

STEP



THAT
GIRL...SHE
STOLE MY
SWORD.

GAAH...



HUFF

HUFF

I CAN'T BE
KILLED
HERE, NOT
NOW!

I CAME HERE
TO PROTECT
PRINCE RUDY.

I'LL DO WHATEVER
IT TAKES TO GET
TO HIM!





WHAT DO
WE DO?
KILL HER
NOW?

SUCH A
HANDFUL.

NO —
NOT AFTER
ALL THE
TROUBLE
SHE
CAUSED.

THUD...



IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS,

BY THESE
MEN...

HEY!
HOLD
HER
DOWN
ON THAT
SIDE!

NO...AAAAH...!!!

SHUT UP!



LET'S HAVE
SOME FUN
BEFORE WE
DISPOSE
OF HER.

BOBO



I'VE...

GOT TO GET
TO PRINCE
RUDY...

SLAM!

!?

D...
DAMN IT..

MY
PRECIOUS
KNIGHT.

PRINCE
RUDY IS
HERE—!?

I'LL BE
TAKING
HER BACK
NOW.

WH...WHY?

WHAT...?

SLASH

EVEN THOUGH
I'VE BEEN
DISMISSED...
WHY...

LEAVE
THE
REST
TO US!

YOUR
HIGHNESS!
WE'VE
CLEARED
THE OUT-
SIDE.



PRINCE...
LADY...



*"PRECIOUS
KNIGHT."*



WANT TO BE
BY PRINCE
RUDY'S SIDE,
AFTER ALL!

AH... I..

HE PROTECTED
ME INSTEAD...

I CAME TO
PROTECT
HIM BUT,

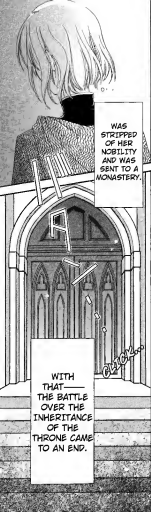
PRINCE
RUDY'S
WARMTH

IS SO
CALMING...

WHY DID
YOU
COME
HERE!?

YOU
IDIOT...

TUGGLE



WAS
STRIPPED
OF HER
NOBILITY
AND WAS
SENT TO A
MONASTERY.

WITH
THAT——
THE BATTLE
OVER THE
INHERITANCE
OF THE
THRONE CAME
TO AN END.

LATER——
PRINCESS
CECELIA WAS
ARRESTED AND
TESTIFIED
AGAINST
QUEEN KARINA
WHERE HER
PLANS WERE
REVEALED.



FEELING
RESPONSIBLE
FOR HIS
MOTHER'S
ACTS, PRINCE
FIDIUS
RESIGNED
HIS RIGHT TO
THE THRONE.

PRINCE
FIDIUS ALSO
DECIDED TO
LEAVE THE
COUNTRY
WITH HIS
MOTHER WHO
HAD BEEN
EXILED.

PRINCESS
CECELIA——



CAN YOU SEE IT,
AIRA? FIDIUS IS
ON THAT BOAT.
SEEING HIM OFF
FROM HERE IS
GOOD ENOUGH
ISNT IT?

PRINCE
RUDY...



THIS IS...
THE HILL WE
WENT TO
BEFORE —



DONT
WORRY,
WE'LL SEE
HIM AGAIN
SOMEDAY.

WITH PRINCE FIDIUS IN MIND,
PRINCE RUDY DIDNT PUNISH
QUEEN KARINA, BUT...

IT'S STILL A SHAME KNOWING
THAT HE'LL BE GONE...



THIS PERSON...
I WANT TO...

I WANT HIM TO
FORGIVE ME.

SUPPORT HIM.

PRINCE
RUDY...

PROTECT HIM.



IN THE END
ALL I DID
WAS CAUSE
TROUBLE,

BUT...

I...WANTED
TO GO BACK
TO BEING
YOUR KNIGHT
AND WENT TO
PRINCESS
CECELIA'S
MANOR.



SQUEE~
I CAN'T
RUN
AWAY!



PLEASE
LET ME
STAY BY
YOUR
SIDE!

I LOVE
YOU SO,



I NEED TO
CONVEY MY
FEELINGS!

LIFT...

WHEN
YOU CUT
YOUR
HAIR...



THE THOUGHT
OF LOSING
YOU WAS
INCREDIBLY
TERRIFYING.



IT RE-
MINDED ME
OF MY
MOTHER.

WHAT—?

THAT'S
WHY I
DISMISSED
YOU.
TO DIS-
TANCE
MYSELF
FROM YOU.

I DIDN'T WANT
YOU TO GO
THROUGH THE
SAME EXPERI-
ENCES AS MY
MOTHER...BUT...
IN THE EVENT
THAT CECILIA OR
QUEEN KARINA
HAD TARGETED
YOU...

I KNEW
THAT IT
WAS GOING
TO HURT
YOU DEARLY,
BUT TO
ME...



THE AIRA
WHO IS
ALWAYS SO
HONEST AND
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD,
FASCINATED
ME AND,

WANTING
TO BE BY
YOUR SIDE,
I MADE YOU
MY KNIGHT.

FROM THE
FIRST TIME I
SAW YOU IN
TOWN, THE
MOMENT I LAID
EYES ON YOU,
IN THAT IN-
STANT MY
HEART WAS
STOLEN.

THAT'S WHY
I WAS
SCARED TO
LOSE YOU...

HE WAS
THINKING
OF ME...

YOU
STEADILY
BECAME
MORE AND
MORE
PRECIOUS
TO ME...



EVERYTHING
IS GOING TO
BE ALRIGHT!

I CAN'T BE
TAKEN DOWN
THAT EASILY!
SO PLEASE
DON'T WORRY.

PLEASE LET
MY STAY BY
YOUR SIDE
AND PROTECT
YOU, SO I
CAN ALWAYS
SEE YOU
SMILING!

I WON'T
LET YOU
RETURN
AS MY
KNIGHT.

IT MAKES
ME WANT
YOU BY
MY SIDE.

IF
THAT'S
SO...

BUT,

YOUR EYES
REALLY ARE
BEAUTIFUL.

JUST LIKE
THE SUN,
THEY GIVE ME
STRENGTH.

SO RADIANT..

GRAB

!



I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
YOU PRO-
TECTING ME.

I WANT TO
GO ON
PROTECT-
ING YOU.

I WON'T
TELL A
PROUD
KNIGHT TO
THROW
AWAY HER
SWORD,
BUT...

I LOVE YOU
MORE THAN
ANYONE IN
THIS WORLD
SO —

PROTECT...
ME...?



TO BECOME
MY KNIGHT
PRINCESS.

I WANT
YOU



KNIGHT...
PRINCESS...?



AS A
WOMAN,

AS A
KNIGHT,



FOREVER.

I WANT
YOU TO
STAY BY
MY SIDE



I CAN DO AS
I PLEASE!

I'M THE
MAN WHO'S
GOING TO
BECOME
KING.

B...BUT...
I'M JUST A
KNIGHT...



TOGETHER,
FOREVER—

INTO A
FUTURE OF
HAPPINESS.

WITH A SWORD
IN HAND AND
A HEART FULL
OF LOVE,

I WANT TO WALK
TOGETHER
WITH HIM.

—YES!

PROTECTING,
BEING
PROTECTED,

WHAT DO
YOU SAY?

WHOOOSH...







IT MAKES ME SICK
HOW THOSE
GUYS JUST
LOOK DOWN
ON OTHERS
FROM UP
ABOVE!

YOU CAN'T GET
OUT OF THAT
SCHOOL.

BUT RUDY
YOU'RE A
PRINCE SO YOUR
PARTNER IS
EITHER GOING TO
BE SOMEONE OF
NOBILITY OR A
PRINCESS FROM
ANOTHER
COUNTRY...

NO WAY,
I DON'T
WANT THAT!

CEVILL DON'T
YOU THINK
ABOUT WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON YOUR
TRUE LOVE
WILL BE
WHEN YOU
GROW UP?

A BIT EGOTISTIC
BUT, I LOVED THIS
BRIGHT AND
CHEERFUL PRINCE.

THEY WERE HAPPY
DAYS WHERE WE
LAUGHED AND TALKED
ABOUT OUR FUTURES.

UNTIL THAT DAY



WHO CARES
ABOUT SOCIAL
STATUS! IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
BECAUSE I'M
GOING TO
PROTECT HER!

A CUTE
GIRL WOULD
BE NICE.



ONE WITH
BEAUTIFUL
EYES!

HEH

WHAT...
THE
QUEEN
HAS...?!

THE QUEEN'S
LIFE WAS
TAKEN AWAY
BY AN ASSASSIN.

RUDY!!

RU...

AND SO
RUDY...

LOST...

I...

HIS SPARK...

RUDY...

LISTEN,
RUDY.



IF YOU DON'T
BECOME
STRONG, YOU
CAN'T PRO-
TECT HER,
RIGHT? YOUR
TRUE LOVE!

YOU'RE GOING
TO PROTECT THE
GIRL YOU LIKE
RIGHT? SO TO
PROTECT HER,
WHAT DO YOU
NEED TO DO?

HUG!!!

I NEED TO
LEARN HOW TO

SO
SMILE!
YOUR
HIGHNESS!

PROTECT
MYSELF FIRST.

I'LL ALWAYS BE
BY YOUR SIDE!
UNTIL YOU
GET STRONGER,
NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
I'LL ALWAYS
PROTECT YOU!

EVEN IF
IT'S TOUGH,
LOOK ON
THE BRIGHT
SIDE AND
SMILE!

IN ORDER TO
PROTECT
SOMEONE,

I DON'T NEED ANY
OTHER KINGS
EXCEPT YOU!!

**A SMILE WORN
AS A MASK.**



**MAKING
NUMEROUS
ALLIES,**



**HE CREATES A
SHIELD THROUGH
HIS CONNECTIONS.**

**A SMILE SEALED
"AWAY, DEEP IN
CONCENTRATION.**



**EVEN WITHOUT
A SWORD,**

**HIS WISDOM
BECOMES HIS
SWORD.**



TIME
GOES BY

WELCOME
HOME.

DID
ANYTHING
GOOD
HAPPEN?

AH!

I SAW A
GIRL WITH
BEAUTIFUL
EYES!

HOW MANY
YEARS HAS IT
BEEN SINCE
I'VE SEEN
THAT SMILE?



BUT —

SIR
CEVILL?

I THOUGHT TO
MYSELF, "WHAT
PART OF THIS
WOMAN IS
CHARMING?"

AND THEN A
SMALL FEMALE
KNIGHT CAME
ALONG.





PRINCE RUDY WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WOULDN'T COME BACK, SIR CEVILL.



— I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING...



WHAT'S WRONG? STANDING AROUND IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

— DARE I SAY

peek

THAT HER STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS AND HOMELINESS ARE

WHAT MAKE HER SO DEAR TO RUDY.



PLEASE TELL HIM, I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS.



CEVILL SMILED?



Y..YES SIR!

**THIS WAS
THE START**

EVEN SO,
HE USED
TO SMILE
A LOT IN
THE PAST.

THAT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME I'VE
EVER SEEN
HIM SMILE
SO I WAS
SURPRISED!

**OF BEAUTIFUL
DAYS TO COME.**

IF EVERY-
ONE COULD
SPEND
EVERY DAY
SMILING,

IT WOULD BE
A GOOD THING
WOULDN'T IT?

HAVE I —
BECOME
STRONG
ENOUGH TO
SMILE?

YES,
SIR!





LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT HAPPY...

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